



Afternoon Alert - Friday, September 15, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks gave extensive top play to reports of the North Korea ballistic missile launch this morning that flew over Hokkaido and landed in the Pacific Ocean about 2,200 km east of Cape Erimo. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the missile traveled about 3,700 km and reached an altitude of about 800 km. The networks said MOD officials said that if the missile had been fired in a different direction, it would have reached Guam. Defense Minister Onodera reportedly told reporters that the missile may have been a Hwasong-12 (Mars-12) intermediate-range ballistic missile.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea's ballistic missile traveled about 3,700 km

NHK reported this morning that at around 6:57 a.m. today North Korea launched a ballistic missile, which took off from a Pyongyang suburb and flew over Hokkaido from 7:04 to 7:06 a.m., and dropped in the Pacific Ocean about 2,200 km east of Cape Erimo at around 7:16 a.m. The network said the missile traveled about 3,700 km, 1,000 km further than the missile launched on Aug. 29. Defense Minister Onodera told reporters that since Guam is located about 3,400 km from North Korea, the missile could have easily reached Guam. Onodera also said that the missile might have been a Hwasong-12 (Mars-12), North Korea's new intermediate-range ballistic missile. Prime Minister Abe told reporters at the Kantei today: "We can never tolerate North Korea's outrageous action that trampled on international community's strong will to peacefully resolve the issue as demonstrated in the latest UN Security Council resolution." The premier also said: "Under the strong U.S.-Japan alliance, we will take all possible measures to ensure the safety and security of the Japanese people with a sense of readiness." All commercial networks also carried similar stories at

noon.

Meanwhile, the network said Foreign Minister Kono told reporters that he spoke by phone with Secretary of State Tillerson following North Korea's missile launch this morning. Kono said: "I confirmed with Secretary Tillerson that the international community must unite and put pressure on North Korea since the launch was an outrageous act that occurred right after the adoption of the UNSC resolution. We also confirmed that the U.S., Japan, and South Korea will work closely and urge all member states to fully implement the latest UN Security Council resolution."

Secretary Tillerson releases statement on North Korea

NHK reported at noon that in response to the latest missile launch by North Korea, Secretary of State Tillerson released a statement in which he said: "North Korea's provocative missile launch represents the second time the people of Japan, a treaty ally of the United States, have been directly threatened in recent weeks." The Secretary also said in the statement: "We call on all nations to take new measures against the Kim regime." An NHK reporter said the Secretary also named China and Russia in the statement and called for further actions, adding that this shows the Secretary's frustration over the lack of effective measures against the North. The reporter said the USG wants to tighten the noose around North Korea by applying increased pressure through diplomatic and economic measures, adding that President Trump will probably call for cooperation from all relevant nations when he attends his first UN General Assembly meeting next week.

Former Northern Territories residents to visit ancestors' graves around Sept. 23

NHK reported online that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters today that an agreement has been reached with the Russian side for former residents of the Northern Territories to visit their ancestors' graves around Sept. 23. The network said the visit was originally planned for June but was postponed due to inclement weather. According to the network, the visit will be a day trip and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nakane and officials of MOFA and the Cabinet Office will also participate. Kono was quoted as saying: "We hope to win the understanding of the people of both nations for the conclusion of a peace treaty by steadily building up efforts and producing various achievements through cooperation on the four islands."

Defending the Senkaku Islands

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that five years have passed since Japan nationalized the Senkaku Islands, and noted that Chinese government ships continue to enter Japanese waters near the islands. According to the program, a total of 752 Chinese vessels were spotted near the contiguous zone in 2016 alone, and 121 of them entered Japanese territorial waters. The number of Chinese government ships entering the region has reportedly increased over the past five years. The program also reported on the continued tension in East China Sea both in the air and at sea, saying that SDF jets were scrambled a record 851 times last year and a Chinese aircraft carrier sailed into the Pacific last December. The program said Japan is trying to deal with China's maritime

activities using its policing power instead of military force, adding that nations such as the Philippines are trying to learn about Japan's policing techniques in order to avoid military conflicts with China.

- [FM Kono to ask Chinese, Russian counterparts to strictly implement DPRK sanctions](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of joint statement issued after Japan-India summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe, Modi united over pressuring N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Putin aide sees Japan-Russia peace treaty talks moving steadily](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Political dialogue involving Japan promotes stability in Middle East](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan to help boost Vietnam's industrial competitiveness](#) (Jiji Press)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 13-14, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Deepen discussion on amending Article 9 for wider understanding](#) (The Japan News)
- [Koike ally's new party to advocate constitutional revision for unicameral Diet](#) (Mainichi)
- [Interview with JCP Chairman Shii on united opposition front](#) (AERA)
- [2 more lawmakers leave struggling main opposition party](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kaisei-educated lawmakers, bureaucrats form alumni society](#) (Mainichi)
- [DP appoints Nataniya Upper House Diet Affairs Committee Chair](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

- [CCS Suga tells governor interception is "option" against North Korean missiles](#) (Nikkei)
- [Coast guard leaders from 34 nations gather in Tokyo for inaugural summit](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Total of 18,799 takeoffs and landings at Kadena base during April-July period](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

- [Japan ranks 15th in small arms exports](#) (Tokyo Shimbun Evening edition)

ECONOMY

- [Toshiba keen to keep chip unit under Japanese control](#) (The Japan News)
- [Interview with Japanese ambassador to Switzerland Etsuro Honda on next BOJ governor](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)

EDUCATION

- [Youth coding clubs to be established to produce skilled programmers](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

SOCIETY

- [UN Human Rights Council may take up comfort women, forced labor issues](#) (Sankei)

OPINION POLLS

- [Ruling parties relieved by rebound in cabinet support rate, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)

